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*Amount involved in the contracts given to Messrs. Callendars Cable and Construction Company, Limited, for transmission lines during the last five years.*

* 626 *Q.*—B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what contracts for transmission lines have been placed with Messrs. Callendars Cable and Construction Company, Limited, during the last five years by the Hydro-Electric department of the Madras Government;

(*b*) what the total value of all such contracts to Messrs. Callendars Cable and Construction Company, Limited, during these five years amounted to;

(*c*) what the total value of all transmission line contracts placed with Indian firms during the last five years amounts to;

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that clause 3 of the tender invitation specifically states that "No firm need tender who have not themselves constructed overhead tower transmission lines for voltages of 66 K.V. or over";

(*e*) whether there are any Indian firms in the Madras Presidency who have erected 66 K.V. tower transmission line;

(*f*) when were 11 and 22 K.V. transmission lines first erected in this Presidency; and

(*g*) whether Indian firms were entrusted with the erection of these lines, and if so, what their names are?

*A.*—(*a*) The following contracts for the construction of transmission lines were placed with Messrs. Callendars Cable and Construction Company, Limited, during the last five years:—

(1) Mettur-Erode-Salem, 22 K.V. lines (1930).
(2) Trichinopoly-Tanjore-Negapatam, 66 K.V. lines (1934).
(3) Tanjore-Papanasam, 33 K.V. lines (1934).

(*b*) The value of the above contracts let to Messrs. Callendars Cable and Construction Company amounted to Rs. 11·5 lakhs.

(*c*) The value of the transmission line contracts placed with Indian firms during the last five years amounted to Rs. 1·2 lakhs.

(*d*) Yes, but only in tenders for the construction of 66 K.V. lines or lines of higher voltage.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) So far as Government lines are concerned, the first 11 K.V. line was constructed in 1929 and the first 22 K.V. line in 1930–31.

(*g*) Yes. Messrs. P. Natesan & Co., Madras.

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B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur :—" With reference to clause (*d*) I would like to know what the real object is of the condition imposed?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" Nothing, except that in a very technical, important and even dangerous matter only experienced men who have already done some work in the line can be expected to execute the work satisfactorily."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar :—" Arising out of clause (*e*) may I ask whether the tender of Messrs. Callendars was the lowest and for that reason they got the contract?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" I am not aware of it. But I shall enquire. But I may tell the hon. Member that though the lowest tender is generally accepted, efficiency plays a more important part."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur :—" With reference to clauses (*d*) and (*e*) I find great disparity between the values of the contract between Messrs. Callendars and the Indian Company. May I know how Government accounts for the great disparity?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" 66 K.W. are of a higher capacity and naturally they cost more. Those that cost more must certainly be higher than those that cost less."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" How many firms are there who have experience in laying 66 K.V. lines—Only one or more than one?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" In what country?"

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" In Madras Presidency?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" I am not aware of many companies, Sir."

*Electric pumps and their capacity.*

* 627 *Q.*—Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi :—" With reference to the answer to question No. 510 answered on the 8th November 1935, will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to call for and lay on the table a list showing the amount of energy used for agricultural pumping, the number of pumps installed and the steps taken by the private licensees in the province in the matter of electrical pumping for agriculture?

*A.*—The Chief Engineer for Electricity has been asked to obtain the information required. This will take some time as reports have to be called for from all licensees.

*Representations for the reservation of the Palar basin for the development of electricity by the Government.*

* 628 *Q.*—Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi : Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has received any representation from the Members of the Legislative Council representing North Arcot to reserve